

ABSTRACT

A security system is provided which permits a user or owner of a portable electronic device to report the device missing to a security station. In response, the security station wirelessly transmits a security message or command to the portable electronic device which, in turn, responds
5 by causing a "destructive" security action to occur. The destructive action may include erasing memory in the portable device, disabling certain functions (*e.g.*, transmitting data, receiving data, accessing memory, etc.) or other types of actions such as reporting location information to the security station. Various security mechanisms can be implemented as well to minimize the risk that an unauthorized entity will be able to broadcast security messages to portable devices.